

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**INFORMATION REPORT**

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SUBJECT The Synthesia Chemical Works at Kolin

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1. The official name of the enterprise is the Synthesia Chemical Works, National Corporation, Draslovka Factory, Kolin (051/M38). It was formerly the Draslovka-Kolin stock corporation for the manufacture of potash lye. This factory belongs to the group of militarily important plants which have come under the control of members of the LNC from time to time. There is no permanent military supervision.
2. Plant personnel includes:
  - a. Managing director: Ing. Graf, Jewish, 58 years old; height, 165 cm., weight, 67 kg., thin, stooped, gray hair. He is a Communist but has lost the confidence of the Party.
  - b. Deputy Managing Director: Ing. Kukal, a Czech, 36 years old; height, 180 cm., weight, 76 kg., thin, brown hair. He has been an ardent Communist since May 1945.
  - c. Political Administrator: (kadrový referent) Stulz, a Czech, 50 years old; height, 176 cm., weight, 70 kg., thin. He is an office-seeker, has been a Communist since May 1945. He was formerly a National Socialist.
  - d. Chairman of the Employees' Council: (Zavodni rady) Baumstein, a Czech, 26 years old; height, 170 cm., weight, 70 kg.; red hair. He is a moderate Communist.
  - e. Chairman of the KSC at Draslovka: Dvorak, a Czech, 55 years old; height, 180 cm., weight, 80 kg.; he has been an ardent Communist since his youth.
  - f. Employees number 300 including 35 officers. About 40% of the workers are members of the Communist Party.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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## 3. Production at the Draslovka Factory is as follows:

- a. The primary raw material, distillery waste products, is transported to the factory in special containers and pumped into four reservoirs. By burning this distillery waste, gas and coke are produced. The coke is carried to warehouses where it is crushed, and from where it is shipped to the Mlada Boleslav distillery as a raw material in the manufacture of potash. From this potash is produced potassium carbonate used in the manufacture of glass.
  - b. The gas is piped into a superheater and thence to a section for the extraction of tar. Carbon black, purified out of the gas, is important in the manufacture of synthetic rubber at the Rubena and Uchod plants. Finally, a compound of ammonium and sulphuric acid is added to the gas, producing ammonium sulphate which is used as an artificial fertilizer. After the remaining gas is further purified in a gas filtration plant, it is used to produce sodium cyanide, Cyklon B, and acetone cyanhydrin.
  - c. Sodium cyanide is produced by adding NaOH to the purified gas and separating out the water by means of centrifugal pumps. The sodium cyanide which remains is dried and pressed into briquets. It is used in the extraction of gold and silver from their ores, and in the manufacture of numerous salts, types C<sub>2</sub>, C<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>4</sub>, and C<sub>5</sub>, for the case hardening of steel at the Vitkovice Iron Works among others. These hardening agents had previously been manufactured in Germany.
  - d. Cyklon is produced by liquifying the gas. The liquid is packed into tin boxes which contain several paper discs of great absorption capacity. It is sold under the name Cyklon B and is used as an insect exterminating agent. During the war it was used in gas chambers.
  - e. Acetone cyanhydrin is used in the manufacture of various synthetic materials at UMA in Pardubice. Cyanic acid, one by-product of the manufacture of acetone cyanhydrin, is neutralized by the addition of iron, and serves as a basic material in the manufacture of Prussian blue dye.
  - f. Plans have been made for the establishment of an institute for research in synthetic materials, for the increased manufacture of acetone cyanhydrin, and for manufacture of potash and complex cyanide salts.
4. Distillery waste products have been in short supply. Although the reservoirs hold a quantity sufficient for continuous operation of the plant for three months, the factory was forced to halt production completely for three months during the summer of 1949, because many orders for waste placed in foreign countries had been cancelled. Supply of special measuring devices, governors and recording instruments has also been a problem. These are obtained entirely from Switzerland, and the plant has no spare parts for them.
  5. The major part of all production is exported to the USSR. Some orders have been received from the Soviet Zone of Germany and Bulgaria. The remainder can be sold on the domestic market.
  6. Production could be halted for a time by means of the destruction of the measuring instruments or of the furnace building. An explosion could be caused by upsetting the delicate balance of gases in various stages of production.

Attachments: A. - Sketch of vicinity of Draslovka Factory of Synthesis  
Chemical Works  
B. - Sketches of Draslovka Factory with legend.

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